

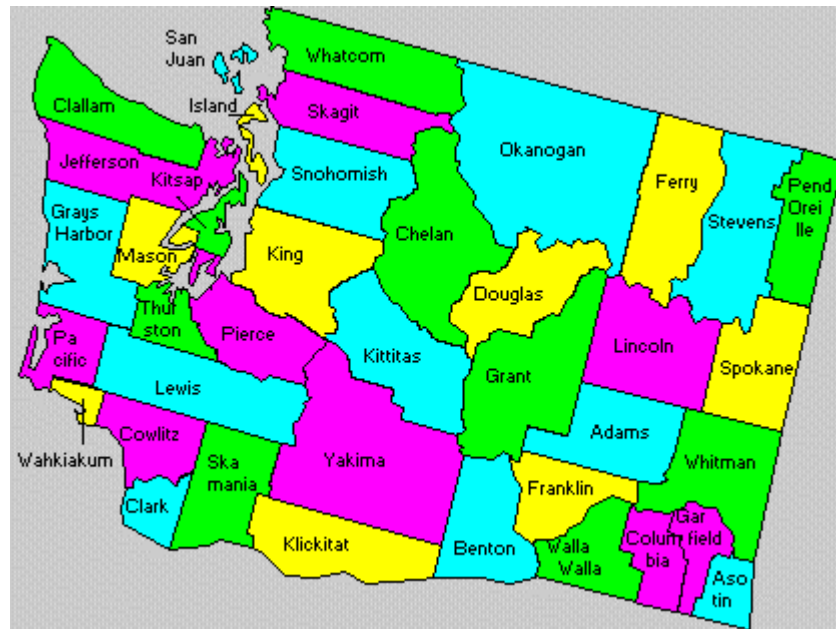
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Washington

Profile of Drug Indicators

April 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Washington

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 Census): 5,894,121
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 81.8% white; 3.2% black; 5.5% Asian; 1.6% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.4% Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander; 3.9% other; 3.6% two or more races; 7.5% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- Percent of population below poverty level (1997 estimate): 10.2%

Politics²

- Governor: Gary Locke (D)
- Lt. Governor: Brad Owen
- Attorney General: Christine O. Gregoire
- Secretary of State: Sam Reed
- U.S. Senators: Maria Cantwell (D); Patty Murray (D)
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-9, respectively): Jay Inslee (D); Richard Larson (D); Brian Baird (D); Doc Hastings (R); George R. Nethercutt, Jr. (R); Norman D. Dicks (D); Jim McDermott (D); Jennifer Dunn (R); Adam Smith (D).

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)³
Designated in 1997, the Northwest HIDTA is responsible for the following Washington counties: King, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima. Drug threats in this area include heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana and cocaine. "Nazi" type methamphetamine labs are proliferating throughout the region. The importation of Mexican black tar heroin supplies by drug trafficking organizations remains at high levels, and the prices remain low.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed⁴
 - Tacoma: The target area for the City of Tacoma Weed and Seed site is Central Tacoma (known as Hilltop), the downtown area, and the lower eastside of the city. The primary goal of this Weed and Seed site is to measurably reduce the prevalence of violent crime, drug trafficking, auto theft, and gang activity.
 - There are additional Weed and Seed sites located in Lakewood, Seattle (Central), SE Seattle, and Toppenish.
- The Governor's Council on Substance Abuse⁵
This initiative was established by an executive order in 1994 in response to the significant human, social and economic costs substance abuse inflicts on individuals, families and communities in Washington State. Council members include private industries, local and tribal governments, treatment providers, community groups, educators and law enforcement. State government is represented on the Council by the directors of the seven state agencies providing substance abuse programs and one legislator for each Caucus of the House and Senate. This Council is responsible for working with State and local agencies and communities to develop common

substance abuse reduction goals and advising the Governor on substance abuse issues by providing recommendations for policy, program and research strategies.

- FY 2001 Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees awarded funding from ONDCP in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):⁶
 - \$100,000 to the Adams County Community Network Coalition, Othello
 - \$99,634 to the Cowlitz Substance Abuse Coalition, Kelso
 - \$89,449 to the Kittitas County Substance Abuse Coalition, Ellensburg
 - \$100,000 to the Oak Harbor Prevention Coalition, Oak Harbor
 - \$100,000 to the United Communities Coalition Project, Pierce County

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- In 2000, the Washington State Patrol arrested 5,024 people for drug offenses. This is up from 4,893 in 1999. The Patrol also conducted 588 drug evaluations on drivers during 2000.⁷
- There were a total of 42,681 arrests for drug abuse violations in Washington during 2000.⁸

Arrests in Washington, Selected Offenses, 1998-2000

Offense	1998	1999	2000
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	130	120	138
Forcible rape	684	712	674
Robbery	1,422	1,349	1,339
Aggravated assault	5,002	4,963	5,041
Burglary	5,795	5,548	5,155
Larceny-Theft	29,564	28,987	27,287
Motor vehicle theft	1,771	2,292	2,183
Arson	362	375	411
Drug abuse violations	17,233	19,692	42,681
Driving under the influence	17,011	29,919	28,718
Liquor laws	14,183	15,757	15,138
Drunkenness	96	57	30

- Preliminary data for adult male arrestees in Seattle indicate that 65% of these arrestees tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrests during 2000.⁹
- 38% of these adult male arrestees tested positive for marijuana, 30% tested positive for cocaine, 11% tested positive for opiates, and 10% tested positive for methamphetamine.¹⁰
- In Seattle during 1999, 65.9% of adult male arrestees and 69.8% of adult female arrestees tested positive for drug use at the time of arrest.¹¹
- 95.1% of the female arrestees who committed a drug offense tested positive for drugs.¹²

Percent of Adult Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, by Offense, Seattle, 1999

Offense	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	28.3	16.7	41.7	30.6	10.6	2.8	1.7	0.0	59.4	44.4
Property	40.1	55.2	37.0	27.6	10.4	5.7	1.6	0.0	74.0	71.3
Drug	48.0	65.9	49.6	34.1	15.4	24.4	2.4	2.4	85.4	95.1
Sales	100.0	--	0.0	--	0.0	--	0.0	--	100.0	-
Possess.	47.5	65.9	50.0	34.1	15.6	24.4	2.5	2.4	85.2	95.1
Prostitution	37.5	72.4	12.5	20.7	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	62.5	82.8
Other	30.7	48.7	37.2	29.5	9.3	14.1	1.6	1.3	63.5	70.5

- Preliminary data for adult male arrestees in Spokane indicate that 56% of these arrestees tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrests during 2000.¹³
- 39% of these adult male arrestees tested positive for marijuana, 21% tested positive for methamphetamine, 14% tested positive for cocaine, and 8% tested positive for opiates.¹⁴
- Among adult male and female arrestees in Spokane, 62.1% and 70.5%, respectively, tested positive for drugs at the time of the arrest in 1999.¹⁵
- 91.9% of the adult males arrested for drug offenses tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrests.¹⁶

Percent of Adult Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, by Offense, Spokane, 1999

Offense Category	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth.		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	13.1	20.0	43.6	30.9	9.7	16.4	1.9	0.0	54.4	52.7
Property	26.4	31.8	42.9	29.5	26.4	40.9	2.1	0.0	66.4	79.5
Drug	32.2	43.9	58.4	36.8	45.0	47.4	2.7	1.8	91.9	94.7
Prostitution	----	66.7	----	0.0	----	0.0	----	0.0	----	66.7
Other	15.6	30.0	42.2	33.3	18.4	28.3	1.9	5.0	60.3	73.3
Total	17.6	30.6	43.5	32.4	20.1	26.6	1.6	2.3	62.1	70.5

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁷
The availability of powder and crack cocaine in Seattle increased from Fall 2000 to Spring 2001. While adolescents are the predominant crack sellers in Seattle, young adults (ages 18-30) and older adults (over age 30) are the predominant users.
- Heroin¹⁸
According to law enforcement sources, heroin is widely available in Seattle with heroin use spreading to the suburbs. Some heroin users use additional substances such as benzodiazepines, marijuana, and cocaine. Heroin and powder cocaine are sometimes injected simultaneously, and heroin and crack are sometimes smoked sequentially.
- Marijuana¹⁹
Sources indicate that marijuana is sometimes laced with or dipped in embalming fluid.

- Methamphetamine²⁰
Young adults (ages 18-30) are the most likely age group to use methamphetamine in Seattle.
- Meth labs are no longer just an urban problem in Washington State. The meth problem is spreading to rural areas, like Benton County, where 38 labs were discovered in 1999 and 19 labs were discovered in the first quarter of 2000.²¹
- Medical Marijuana (Initiative 692)²²
In November 1998, Washington voters approved Initiative 692, allowing people suffering from specific medical conditions to use marijuana if approved by their physician. This State law only allows supply via patient-grown marijuana. If a patient is unable to grow their own marijuana, or if they need it sooner than growing allows, they can only obtain the marijuana from illegal sources. These patients are not allowed to possess more than a 60-day supply of marijuana at any one time.

Juveniles

- There were a total of 5,739 juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations in Washington during 2000. This is an increase of 3,007 from 1999.

Juvenile (under 18) Arrests, Washington, 1998-2000

Offense	1998	1999	2000
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	20	16	19
Forcible rape	133	152	152
Robbery	487	407	386
Aggravated assault	1,075	1,107	1,018
Burglary	2,685	2,412	2,072
Larceny-Theft	12,715	11,708	10,844
Motor vehicle theft	891	1,083	912
Arson	234	228	252
Drug abuse violations	2,429	2,732	5,739
Driving under the influence	308	515	500
Liquor laws	4,675	5,290	4,914
Drunkenness	16	14	5

- The Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) provides preventive, rehabilitative, residential and transition programs for juvenile offenders. The goals are to hold these juveniles accountable for their crimes and to protect the public and reduce recidivism. Approximately 80% of youth committed to JRA are substance abusers or are chemically dependent.²³

Enforcement

- Northwest HIDTA's initiatives include the following:²⁴
 - Northwest HIDTA Border Task Force: This multi-agency task force responds to increases in drug smuggling on the U.S./Canadian border. Integrated Border Enforcement Teams were developed and deployed in partnership with Canadian authorities. The initiative also funds a State Prosecutor to handle border arrests requiring State prosecution.

- Community Coalition Support Initiative: This initiative provides resources to substance abuse prevention coalitions in each Northwest HIDTA county in order to develop a region-wide demand reduction strategy in collaboration with law enforcement and other agencies.
 - Drug Court Development: This initiative provides resources to drug court programs in each Northwest HIDTA county. It coordinates and leverages resources in order to enhance the capacity of such programs to provide individualized treatment and services to chronic, career drug offenders who are to be adjudicated for drug-related crimes.
 - Investigative Support Center: This is a collocated intelligence initiative that brings members from several agencies together in office space provided by DEA. The program's components include full intelligence analyst support on investigations, information research, strategic research on general threat topics or specialized situations, post seizure analysis and document exploitation, critical event deconfliction and the loan of specialized electronic evidence gathering equipment.
- In the seven county area served by the Northwest HIDTA, there are eight Byrne Grant-funded, multi-jurisdictional narcotics task forces. There are also four DEA task forces, and one city/county task force.²⁵
 - As of October 31, 2000, there were 13,670 full-time law enforcement employees in Washington. Most (9,580) were sworn officers and the rest (4,090) were civilian employees.²⁶

Trafficking and Seizures

- Smuggling at the U.S./Canadian border is on the increase. Potent Canadian-grown marijuana is in demand throughout the U.S. creating cross-border smuggling events.²⁷
- Shipments of Asian heroin often transit through Puget Sound's commercial port facilities with ultimate distribution in U.S. cities on the eastern seaboard.²⁸
- More than 300 small islands provide Washington with 3,026 miles of internal shoreline increasing the maritime smuggling potential. Maritime drug seizures in these waters are on the rise.²⁹
- The FY 2000 Northwest HIDTA Threat Assessment identified 60 drug trafficking organizations posing a criminal threat in the seven HIDTA counties.³⁰
- During 2000, there were 26,851 marijuana plants eradicated under the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.³¹

Number of Marijuana Plants Seized and Eradicated, Washington, 2000

	Number
Outdoor Operations	
Plots eradicated	91
Cultivated plants eradicated	8,282
Indoor Operations	
Grows seized	140
Plants eradicated	18,569
Total Plants Eradicated	26,851

- There were also 165 arrests made and 222 weapons seized as a result of the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program. \$2,997,627 in assets was also seized under this program in 2000.³²
- The Washington Department of Ecology tracks all responses to meth labs statewide. This department's data shows a steadily increasing number of illegal drug labs statewide from 1990 when just 38 illegal labs were reported, to 1999 when 789 illegal drug labs were reported. From January 1 to March 31, 2000, the Department of Ecology received reports of 362 illegal labs across the State.³³

Courts

- As of January 17, 2002, there were 35 drug courts in Washington that have already been implemented or are being planned. Of these, 16 have been operating for over two years, 6 have recently been implemented, and 13 are being planned.³⁴
- During FY 2000, 26.4% of Federally sentenced offenders in Washington were drug offenders. The majority of offenses involved marijuana (31.4%), followed by powder cocaine (26.4%), methamphetamine (23.8%), heroin (10.0%), crack cocaine (5.7%), and substances that do not fall under any of these categories (2.7%).³⁵

Corrections

- As of December 31, 2001, there were 15,224 inmates within the Washington Department of Corrections (DOC). 20.5% of these inmates were drug offenders.³⁶
- At the end of 2000 (December 31), there were 160,977 adults on probation and 160 adults on parole in Washington.³⁷

Consequences of Use

- During 2000, heroin/morphine was mentioned 102 times in drug abuse deaths reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network by Medical Examiners (ME) in Seattle/King County.³⁸

Number of ME Drug Mentions and Deaths, Selected Drugs, Seattle, 1997-2000

Drug category	1997	1998	1999	2000
Alcohol-in-combination	74	95	61	71
Cocaine	65	68	76	88
Heroin/morphine	110	142	117	102
Marijuana	--	1	--	1
Amphetamines	2	--	1	1
Methamphetamine	3	3	28	12
Club drugs	--	--	1	2
Inhalants	--	--	--	1
Narcotic analgesics	31	49	21	53
Other analgesics	20	11	13	21
Benzodiazepines	26	37	15	20
Antidepressants	40	63	48	59
All other substances	34	50	36	34
Total drug abuse deaths	169	215	199	215
Total drug mentions	405	519	417	465

- There were a total of 11,115 drug-related emergency department (ED) episodes in Seattle during 2000.³⁹

Number of ED Drug Mentions and Episodes, Selected Drugs, Seattle, 1997-2000

Drug category	1997	1998	1999	2000
Alcohol-in-combination	2,988	2,221	2,228	3,173
Cocaine	2,850	2,399	2,519	3,338
Heroin	2,894	2,421	2,470	2,490
Marijuana	1,663	936	808	1,414
Amphetamines	462	293	345	640
Methamphetamine	479	266	353	540
MDMA (ecstasy)	20	19	32	128
Ketamine	2	0	3	4
LSD	163	94	121	107
PCP	49	47	47	116
Miscellaneous hallucinogens	53	45	48	37
Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol)	0	--	1	0
GHB	--	17	34	57
Inhalants	20	6	16	12
Total drug episodes	10,587	8,327	8,424	11,115
Total drug mentions	18,203	13,914	13,854	18,974

Treatment⁴⁰

- During 2001, 54,523 people were admitted to treatment for alcohol or drug abuse in Washington. 17.1% of those being treated reported that marijuana was their primary substance of abuse.

Substance Abuse Treatment Admission, Washington, 2001

Primary substance of abuse	Number	Percent of total
Alcohol only	10,460	19.2%
Alcohol with secondary drug	15,213	27.9
Cocaine (smoked)	3,015	5.5
Cocaine (other route)	1,346	2.5
Marijuana	9,346	17.1
Heroin	5,735	10.5
Other opiates	658	1.2
PCP	22	0.0
Hallucinogens	134	0.2
Amphetamines	7,740	14.2
Other stimulants	26	0.0
Tranquilizers	175	0.3
Sedatives	78	0.1
Inhalants	32	0.1
Other/unknown	543	1.0

Sources

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- ² State of Washington web site at <http://access.wa.gov/>
- ³ Northwest HIDTA Web site: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_nw.html
- ⁴ Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/>
- ⁵ Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Web site:
http://www.oed.wa.gov/factsheets/local/CJGrants/SDFC_CJGrants_GCOSA.htm
- ⁶ Drug-Free Communities Web site: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/wa.html>
- ⁷ Washington State Patrol, 2000 *Annual Report*: <http://www.wa.gov/wsp/reports/stats00.htm>
- ⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>
- ⁹ National Institute of Justice, *ADAM Preliminary 2000 Findings on Drug Use and Drug Markets: Adult Male Arrestees*, December 2001: http://www.adam-nij.net/files/2000_Preliminary_Findings.pdf
- ¹⁰ Ibid.
- ¹¹ National Institute of Justice, *1999 Annual Report on Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*, June 2000:
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/pdf/adam1999.pdf>
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ National Institute of Justice, *ADAM Preliminary 2000 Findings on Drug Use and Drug Markets: Adult Male Arrestees*, December 2001: http://www.adam-nij.net/files/2000_Preliminary_Findings.pdf
- ¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, November 2001*, November 2001: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/fall2001/fall2001.pdf>
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ Governor's Council on Substance Abuse, *Report on Methamphetamine Abuse in Washington State*, May 2000
- ²² Governor's Council on Substance Abuse, *Implementation of Initiative 692: The Washington Medical Use of Marijuana Act*, January 2000: http://198.239.32.112/sdfc/PDF/medical_marijuana.pdf
- ²³ Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration Web site: <http://www.wa.gov/dshs/jra/jra3ov.html>
- ²⁴ Northwest HIDTA Web site: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_nw.html
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>
- ²⁷ Northwest HIDTA Web site: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_nw.html
- ²⁸ Ibid.
- ²⁹ Ibid.
- ³⁰ Northwest HIDTA Web site: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_nw.html
- ³¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*:
<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ Washington Department of Ecology Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/>
- ³⁴ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, January 17, 2002:
<http://www.american.edu/spa/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>
- ³⁵ United States Sentencing Commission Web site: <http://www.ussc.gov/judpack/jp2000.htm>
- ³⁶ Washington Department of Corrections Web site, *Inmate Statistics*:
<http://www.wa.gov/doc/planningresearch/secstats.htm>
- ³⁷ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2000*, August 2001:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ppus00.pdf>
- ³⁸ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Mortality Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network 2000*, January 2002: <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/mortality2k.pdf>

³⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Emergency Department Trends from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, February 2002:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/dawn/TrndED/2001/Text/TrndEDtxt.PDF>

⁴⁰ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Treatment Data:

<http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/newmapv1.htm>

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

The Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-666-3332
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>
ondcp@ncjrs.org

